

# ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## ROUTE 159 NEWSLETTER

Issue 7 - Winter 2009

### PROJECT REPORT IS COMPLETE!

As many residents will recall, IDOT started the Illinois Route 159 project in Collinsville in the summer of 2005. On January 12, 2009, the Project Report received approval. What does this mean to the project? The approval of the Project Report signals the end of Phase I – Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Study. IDOT completes projects in three phases. Phase I is Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Study, Phase II is the Final Design and Land Acquisition, and Phase III is Construction of the project. With the completion of Phase I, IDOT may move forward with efforts to secure the right of way and easements required for the project as funding allows. In fact, some residents may have already been contacted by an Appraiser and/or Relocation Specialists. More discussion on Phase II – Final Design and Land Acquisition has been included in this newsletter. It is important to note that even though IDOT has secured funding for Phase II and right of way acquisition, the construction of this project is still unfunded. IDOT is continuing efforts to secure funding for relocation of utilities and construction for this important project.



### LAND ACQUISITION BEGINS

Now that Phase I of the project is completed, IDOT can begin contacting the property owners to present the written offers to purchase the right of way and easements needed for the improvement to Illinois Route 159. IDOT will use Certified General Real Estate Appraisers licensed in the State of Illinois to determine the compensation amount to be offered for the right of way and easements to be acquired for the project. IDOT approved Negotiators and Relocation Specialists will present written offers for the interests to be acquired and identify any relocation benefits eligible to the property owner. In fact, some residents along the route may have already been contacted by an Appraiser and/or Relocation Specialist regarding the purchase of property and easements for right of way. As appraisals are completed, Bernardin, Lochmueller and Associates, Inc. (BLA) will begin making offers on behalf of IDOT to acquire the right of way.

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This newsletter provides an update on the land acquisition efforts and final design work currently underway for this project.

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## MESSAGE FROM IDOT

I would like to thank all the people who put forth the effort required to complete the Project Report for the Illinois Route 159 project, especially those from the community who sacrificed their time to serve on the Community Advisory Group, participate in the Public Involvement Meetings, or contacted the Project Team with questions or concerns. It is only through the efforts of these volunteers and Collinsville's elected officials, that IDOT has been able to make this project a positive collaborative effort that will serve commuters and the Collinsville community.

Sincerely,

Mary C. Lamie, PE  
Deputy Director of Highways  
Region Five Engineer

## LAND ACQUISITION BEGINS (continued from page 1)

Due to the amount of funding required to construct this project and the potential disruption to traffic, IDOT is preparing to construct this project in two segments. Construction of the project may be broken down into more segments should factors arise. The land acquisition will begin in the south starting at South Morrison and continuing north to Church Street. The second phase of land acquisition will begin at Church Street and continue to the northerly limits of the project near Kinloch Avenue. IDOT has directed BLA to begin appraising and acquiring property in the south segment of the project and the appraisals for the south segment are nearing completion. The acquisition of properties have already begun for several parcels. All of the property owners affected by the improvements to Illinois Route 159 in the south segment can expect to be contacted by a negotiator sometime during the Spring of 2009. The land acquisition in the northern segment of the project is scheduled to begin in the Fall of 2009. IDOT has also placed a priority on the early acquisition of total displacement properties required for this project. Regardless of their location along the route, properties that are a total displacement will be appraised and acquired near the beginning of the project's acquisition process.

**Should you have any questions regarding the land acquisition process for the Illinois Route 159 project, please contact :**

**Ms. Cindy Watters at BLA  
(618) 288-4665, extension 222**

## PROGRESS ON FINAL DESIGN

Knowing that this important project will have to compete against projects across the region and state for limited construction dollars - and that projects that are "ready to go" have the best chance to get funding should it become available - IDOT authorized its consultant, Volkert and Associates, to proceed with final plans in June of 2008. By authorizing the consultant last summer, IDOT is getting a jump on the final design and construction bid documents for this project. Final design is the detailed plan development required for contractors to bid and build projects. Until now the public has seen only the preliminary design work for this project. Preliminary design addresses the roadway design to the level of detail that is required to determine how much right of way is required for the project. The final design will address:

- elevations of the roadway and sidewalks
- entrance grades
- how to keep the road and driveways open to traffic during construction
- location of drainage inlets
- size and location of storm sewer
- the location of traffic signals
- location of aesthetic treatments
- roadway striping
- erosion control during construction

## IDOT TO “BEAUTIFY” ILLINOIS 159

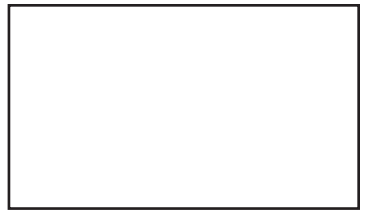
IDOT and the City of Collinsville have come to an agreement on aesthetic treatments to be used on the section of Illinois Route 159 through downtown Collinsville. IDOT has agreed to include brick imprinted crosswalks in the downtown section of this project. IDOT will also construct a 2 ft. brick imprinted buffer area between the sidewalk and back of the curb. Trees removed by this project will be replaced, when possible, at a ratio of 1:1 and IDOT’s designers will try to replace as many trees in the downtown area as possible. IDOT has agreed to install decorative benches, trash receptacles, tree grates (where needed), and decorative signs and posts from Church Street to Clay Street and the City of Collinsville has agreed to maintain these items. The aesthetic treatments included with the Illinois Route 159 project will complement the work that the City has already incorporated downtown. Pictures of the existing items have been included in the photos on this page. The City of Collinsville is also pursuing grants to pay for pedestrian lighting to be added to this project.







1102 Eastport Plaza Drive  
Collinsville, Illinois 62234



## CONTACT INFORMATION

You may submit questions or comments  
on this project by writing us at:

***Illinois Route 159 Project Team  
c/o Volkert and Associates, Inc.***

***103 Lanter Court  
Collinsville, IL 62234***

Or you may submit questions or comments on the  
project website at:

***[www.dot.il.gov/ilroute159](http://www.dot.il.gov/ilroute159)***

